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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

6-1-1923

Justice (Vol. 5, Iss. 23)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."

—Job 27.6

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. V, No. 23.

New York, Friday, June 1, 1923.

Price 2 Cents

FIFTH QUARTERLY MEETING OF G. E. B. JUNE 11TH, IN N. Y.

A Big Program And—Organization Plans for Next Fall to Be Decided.

Beginning Monday, June 11th, the General Executive Board of the International will commence its fifth quarterly meeting in New York City in the Council Room of the International Building at 3 West 16th Street.

This is the second consecutive meeting of the Board in New York City, a thing quite unusual for the International. It has been customary in the past to take these meetings out of New York in order to be in closer touch with the needs and requirements of the various women's wear territories. The last quarterly meeting in New York, however, proved such a success that the members of the Board seem to have given up their old prejudice against holding meetings in New York and are now ready to follow up the fourth quarter-

ly meeting with another in the Big Metropolis.

Among the principal subjects that this meeting will consider will be the

organization activities in Canada, with particular regard for the Montreal cloak situation; the strike in (Continued on page 11)

General Strike of Dressmakers in Worcester, Mass.

All Workers Vacate Shops—Mayor Sullivan Calls Both Sides to Arbitration—Strikers Led by Vice-President Monosson—Expect Speedy Decision.

On Thursday, May 24th, at 10 o'clock in the morning, a general strike was declared in all the dress shops of Worcester, Mass.

The readers will find elsewhere in

these columns the details which attended this walkout. Suffice it to say, the workers did their best to avoid a struggle, but the local manufacturers (Continued on page 11)

Women's Wear Designers to Meet Saturday, June 2nd

The Designers' Union, Local 45, has not exhibited any great signs of activity in late months. Now, however, with the induction into office of its new manager, Brother L. Broadfield, the organization work of Local 45 is beginning to live up. The new office of the Designers' Union is 11 West 28th Street.

On Saturday, June 2nd, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, the Designers' Union will have an open meeting to which all the designers in the trade—even if not members of the union—are invited to come. President Morris Sigman will attend this meeting and will have a heart-to-heart talk with the designers in the women's wear industry. The meeting will take place at the Garden Room of the Hotel Martiniqne, 32nd Street and Broadway.

Organization Drive Goes On In Baltimore

The organization campaign among the cloakmakers of Baltimore is being pushed forth under the supervision of the Eastern Organization Office.

On Monday evening, June 4th, there will take place a second big mass meeting of cloakmakers at Baltimore, which will be addressed by President Morris Sigman, who is going to Baltimore especially for this purpose. In addition to Brother Sigman, the meeting will be addressed by Vice-president Halprin, the manager of the Eastern Department, and Brother Max Amdur, chief clerk of the Cloakmakers' Union of Philadelphia.

Brother Abraham Brightstein, business agent of the Baltimore Cloakmakers' Union, will be chairman of the meeting, which will be held at the Talmud Torah Hall.

New York Pressers Celebrate 10th Anniversary of Relief Work

Hudson Excursion Steamer Chartered for Members—Relief Committee Publishing Volume to Be Distributed as a Gift to Members of Local—Excursion Boat Will Leave Battery Park on Sunday, June 3, at 10 o'clock in the Morning.

The relief department of the Cloak, Skirt and Dress Pressers Union, Local 35, will be ten years old this June. The executive board of the local has therefore decided to celebrate the anniversary of this event by arranging an excursion for the members of the local on the Hudson, thus affording them an opportunity to spend a day in a friendly atmosphere in the pure unclouded surroundings of the majestic river.

Brother Breslaw, the manager of Local 35, has requested that we make known a few important points with regard to this excursion: First, the boat will leave on Sunday, June 3rd,

at 10 o'clock in the morning. Rather than to wait for the last minute, members are requested to get to the pier not later than 9 o'clock in the morning. The steamer Clermont leaves from Pier A, Battery Park, near South Ferry. Those who come from Brooklyn and the Bronx will have to ride directly to South Ferry, which is the only starting point.

Second, only those who have tickets can come to the pier. No chances of getting on board the excursion steamer without tickets should be taken. The new regulations of the dock department require that no more than a certain number of passengers be allowed on board the ship, even infants

in arms being counted among this number. In order to avoid trouble, people who have children should get tickets for them as well.

Three, members are warned that no intoxicating drinks of any kind will be allowed on board the ship.

On the occasion of the anniversary, the relief committee of Local 35 has published a 90-page book replete with interesting articles and facts concerning the activities and existence of Local 35. Each member of the local can obtain such a book free of charge at the office of the union, 223 Second Avenue.

It is perhaps in point to state here that President Morris Sigman, who is a member of Local 35, was one of the first to help organize this relief fund, at the time when he was the manager-secretary of Local 35. He indeed has sufficient reason to feel contented with the development of this mutual aid activity within the union.

Pacific Coast Report Given By Secretary Baroff

At Special Meeting of New York Members of G. E. B.—International Donates Five Hundred Dollars to Roumanian Labor Delegation

On Thursday and Friday, May 24 and 25, there was held a special meeting of the New York members of the G. E. B. to listen to the report brought back from the Pacific Coast by Secretary Baroff. The meeting also listened to President Sigman's statement on the Canadian situation.

Most of his seven weeks Secretary Baroff spent in San Francisco, directing the struggle of the local cloakmakers against their employers. San Francisco is passing through a very grave crisis at present in the labor union sense. The concerted drive of the employing interests in that city has weakened considerably the labor unions there and this has naturally had its effect on our local organization. The conditions in the cloak-

shops have recently become unbearable.

So the cloakmakers struck, and demanded humane treatment and rec-

ognition of the union in the shops. It turned out, however, that instead of fighting their own employers' workers were face to face with the powerful employers' association and corporate interests of San Francisco, who have left nothing undone to hinder the settlement of the strike and to encourage and abet the cloak manufacturers not to concede the modest and just demands of the workers.

So far, all efforts to settle the strike have failed and the union has no other (Continued on page 11)

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET FOR THE FOREST PARK UNITY HOUSE?

If not, do so at once, and do not fail to come to the opening on Friday, June 15th. A concert and a dance will open the season at Forest Park, and it would be a sin to miss them. More details next week.

The Philadelphia Unity House at Orville, Pa., will open on Sunday, June 17th. Philadelphia dressmakers and cloakmakers will do the right thing if they register immediately and make arrangements to be present at the Philadelphia Unity House on the opening day.

Students' Hike and Outing June 10th

The students of our Workers' University and Unity Centers will have their second outing and hike on Sunday, June 10th. This time they will go to Englewood, N. J.

At 9:30 a. m., on Sunday, June 10th, our members and their friends will assemble at the foot of the Dyckman Street Subway Station. To get there, take West Side Subway, Van Cortlandt Park train, and stop at Dyckman Street. From the station, the hikers will proceed to the Dyckman Street Ferry.

The arrangements made by the committee promise a day of sociability and good fun.

Topics of the Week

By MAX D. DANISH

STEEL TRUST STANDS PAT

THE AMERICAN Iron and Steel Institute, of, by and for the Steel Trust, after a year of laborious research on the subject of the desirability of a change from the 12-hour day in the steel mills, finally spoke at its meeting last week. It asserts that no change is necessary or feasible as the 12-hour day is neither "physically, mentally, or morally injurious to the workmen," and besides, there are not enough hardy workmen in the country today to risk shorter hours which "might seriously entail needed production."

The report was read by President Gary himself and was liberally applauded by all the ironmasters present. The press reports have it that President Harding is disappointed at the decision of the steel barons,—that he would rather have the steel industry change to a more humane standard of production. Whether this is true or not—the labor movement of this country is neither surprised nor disappointed at the decree of the Steel Trust. Steel will continue to be the citadel of America's plutocracy as long as the steel workers are unorganized. The men in the steel mills will continue to slave inhuman hours, and their families will continue to live in wretched steel-mill town hovels—as long as they remain inarticulate and without the voice of the labor union to speak and fight for them.

It is a great hard job—this conquest of the steel kingdom for the workers' movement. The odds against the hundreds of thousands of overworked, cowed and browbeaten workmen in Garydom are great, hopelessly great. It would seem. And the twelve-hour day, a workday which allows little if anything for leisure, for rest, reading, thought, is one of the main weapons in the hands of the steel masters. Can anyone reasonably expect that they would voluntarily give it up?

THE NEW INTERNATIONALE

THE SECOND and Second-and-a-Half Internationals are no more and in their places there has been created a consolidated organization to be known as the "Labor-Socialist Internationale." The new body was formed last week by 620 delegates from thirty different nations, including the United States, at a Congress in Hamburg.

The new Internationale is designed to include all the Socialist organizations of the world, and its program, as officially outlined, comprises four main points: the substitution of socialist for capitalistic methods of production as a means of achieving the emancipation of the working class; the complete unification of the Socialist workers' movement; only voluntary restriction of autonomy of the parties in the individual lands; the use of no organization as an instrument during war as well as peace.

The program adds the constitution of the new International were unanimously adopted amid a storm of applause. As was to be expected, the Communists had sought negotiations with the Socialist congress looking forward to a "United Front." Their overtures were, however, rejected on the ground that "the congress regards the democratic equality of the workers as the sole basis for negotiations. Only the majority of the proletariat can make a final and binding decision upon the actions of the proletariat. Therefore, there is little prospect of negotiations with those who regard it as dogmatic that the minority shall decide what the laboring class must do."

It is as yet difficult to appreciate what this first worldwide congress of delegates of socialist parties since the war has achieved and what it has failed to accomplish. Perhaps it is best not to overestimate its present achievements, and it may be admitted that it has not exhibited a great amount of energy and militancy; but that in the present well-hoped atmosphere of Europe it was possible to assemble such a gathering and to decide upon a common policy for the working class parties of the world is in itself a substantial achievement.

POINCARÉ GETS A WARNING

THE flurry raised by the sudden resignation of the French Premier Poincaré—and its subsequent withdrawal—is doubtless far more ominous and meaningful than it appears to be on the surface. It was a definite and resounding check to the swashbuckling coterie that rules France today and serves as a cheery forerunner of a more hopeful page of French life.

Poincaré's resignation, it must be kept in mind, followed the refusal by the Senate to sign a high court to try the French communist deputies and other writers and editors who fell under the ban of Poincaré because they actively disagreed with his Ruhr adventure. The Senate plainly told him to take the accused to a regular court—if he had a case against him. And this sharp rebuke was even more galling because it came close after the holdover Nationalist bloc in the Chamber, elected in war days and no longer representative of French public opinion, voted its "confidence" in him by a big majority.

Poincaré received this slap full in the face, and later backed down and reversed his position on the question of the trial of the offending deputies. The Senate plainly pointed a finger of warning at him reminding him and his group not to go too far in suppressing freedom of speech and freedom of political action under the cloak of "national unity."

Unfortunately, there is not today in France a strong labor movement that could speak on behalf of the great masses of Frenchmen. The Senate's rebuke was so far the first admonition to the French "die-hards" to go slowly with their plans to smother every voice of protest and disagreement with their policies. But there is a national election to take place at last in a few months throughout France. And from the temper of the Senate there is hope that the combination of Nationalists, Monarchists, and revanchists that rule France today, will in this election be wiped clean out as a dominant factor in French national life, and will make way for a policy of genuine conciliation and for cooperative healing of the deep wounds inflicted upon the nations of Europe by the war.

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FORD FOR PRESIDENT

RECENTLY the name of the Pliver Wizard of Dearborn has been decorating the front pages of the press—cosmopolitan and otherwise—with even greater vehemence than is customary. First came the glad tidings that Ford is today by far the single richest person in the United States, possessing a half billion or so in cold cash, and that he is on the way of duplicating his wealth within a few years or so. This was all substantiated by figures that do not lie of bank deposits and other incontestable data.

Now rumblings of Ford's ambition for the presidency—or of the ambitions of his promoters to install him in the presidency—are being heard louder and louder. It is reported that this Ford-for-President movement, for one reason or another, is causing consternation in the camp of the professional, machine politicians. Ford has money. Will he "loosen up" and corral enough delegates to insure the nomination—is a question being asked on all sides. Mind you, it is sort of being admitted that should he "loosen up," he would have no difficulty in capturing the nomination.

In The Nation, Oswald Garrison Villard has devoted a lengthy article to proving that Ford is temperamentally, mentally, and by experience and actual knowledge of things, totally unfit to be president of the United States. Yet, he tells us that the best-informed political observers say that, if Ford is nominated on the Democratic ticket, he will sweep the country. "We are inclined to believe that they are right. What have education, talent, knowledge, and temperament got to do with 'qualities essential' to make a successful president? Mediocrity may be the badge of a Ford, but does he really fall so far below the intellectual level of a Harding, a McKinley or a Cleveland? He, at least, has contributed the 'silver' to the treasure of our national culture."

A NEW "PLAGUE" IN EGYPT

GREAT BRITAIN,—the protector and civilizer, among other countries, of Egypt—has, as is generally known, granted the Egyptians, after years of fighting and oppression, a constitution. By this new charter, the Egyptian citizens were to become the supreme arbiters of their country's destiny.

Yet, according to news dispatches, emanating not from British sources, the Egyptians are not terribly elated over the magna charta granted to them by England, but are, quite to the contrary, dismayed at their new fearful responsibility. The election campaign has already begun, the first election in the long, checkered history of Egypt. There are far too many candidates already; there will be seats for about 400 in the two houses, but there are nearly 4,000 candidates in the field already, with more preparing to offer themselves. This great host has descended upon the timid electorate, each libeling his opponents unmercifully and each telling a different story. The awed masses are too scared even to register themselves on the electoral rolls, fearing the census will be used to conscript them for the army or for some other purpose that will increase the Government's hold over them.

The voters in Egypt are not being appealed to; they are being browbeaten, and they are coming to the conclusion that their independence is merely designed to enrich the aristocracy and the bureaucracy at the expense of the toiling masses.

FROM OUR JOINT BOARDS AND LOCALS

Boston News

By A LOCAL OBSERVER

Arbitration cases with employers are usually very interesting to the members of a union, for many points are brought out at a hearing before an impartial chairman that are not covered by agreements. One such case was thrashed out before Dr. M. J. Konikow of Roxbury, who acted as arbitrator in a dispute between the union and the firm of Binder Bros., 745 Washington Street.

A member of ours, an operator, took sick on Friday, May 4, and did not report to the shop until Tuesday morning, May 15. During the illness of the operator, the firm received a few orders and therefore called upon the union to supply operators. The office of the union did, and all machines were filled with workers sent by us. When the operator in question returned to the shop, the firm informed her that "her services were no longer required," as he had already engaged another worker in her stead. The office tried to have this worker reinstated, but the employer remained stubborn.

The union was then compelled to summon the firm to arbitration. The employer argued the case from a different point of view, to prove why the operator is not entitled to her place in the shop. One of his reasons was that the union had replaced this girl with another worker upon his request for help. The representative of the union made it very clear to the impartial chairman that the union feels desirous not to hinder production in any shop, is at all times ready to supply the firm with help, when a worker in its employ is compelled for a good reason to be absent from work temporarily. But it must be understood that the union would at no time replace, or permit a firm to replace a worker permanently, in case of sickness. The union also insisted on pay for lost time for the girl in question from the date of her discharge.

The arbitrator after deliberating two days rendered his decision, which because of its length, cannot be reprinted here in full. We shall only copy the last paragraph of this decision, it being the most important one. "I therefore, recommend the reinstatement of Miss..... from May 15, 1923, allowing her the lost wages she would have received from that date."

The Massachusetts Dress Manufacturers' Association, as the dress contractors call themselves, invited us to a conference. The communication was discussed by the Executive Board and a committee was elected to meet with them. The conference took place Wednesday, May 23rd at the Hotel Brewster. The following propositions were brought up by the Association for discussion:

1. That the Union should use its good offices when organizing new contracting shops, and induce these employers to join the Association, rather than sign individual agreements with them.

2. That the Union should enforce the clause in our agreement with the inside manufacturers, which states that no work shall be sent out to any shop where union standards and conditions are not maintained.

3. Should workers desire to change their places of employment, no working card is to be issued to them, unless a satisfactory reason is given by them for leaving the shop.

4. That during the trial period a firm

should not be compelled to pay the minimum scales provided by the agreement, but that it be left to the judgment of the respective employers to determine the value of the workers' services for that period.

Both sides reached a satisfactory understanding on the first two propositions. We disagreed however, on the two other questions. The union maintained that it is the inherent right of a worker to seek employment when the worker sees a chance to better his condition by changing his place of employment.

The question of determining the competency of the workers and the pay that they are to receive during the trial period, was objected to strenuously by the union representatives, on the ground that we have a clause in the agreement covering all this, and the union is not willing to make any changes in it. After a thorough discussion, the committee representing the Association withdrew the last two propositions.

The spirit that prevailed at this conference was very amicable, and we are sure that as a result of it relations between both organizations will greatly improve.

News From Worcester

In last week's issue of the JUSTICE we informed our readers that at the eleventh hour, just before calling the general strike of dressmakers the Worcester manufacturers agreed to meet the union in conference and try to come to a settlement.

But at the conference the manufacturers again underwent a change of heart. The union demanded a 44 hour week and a 15 per cent increase in wages. This latter demand the manufacturers refused to concede. The employers also refused to recognize a complete union shop. Vice-president Monosson tried all week long to bring about a peaceful settlement, but when all efforts failed the delayed general strike was called on Thursday, May 24, at 10 o'clock in the morning.

The response to the strike call exceeded all expectations. One hundred per cent of the dressmakers of Worcester walked out of the shops to the surprise and chagrin of the employers. It would be hard to describe the enthusiasm that reigned in the hall where the strikers gathered. Picket lines were at once established around all dress shops as a mere demonstration, for not a worker was left in any of the shops. Mayor Sullivan, at the request of Miss A. Weinstein of the United States Labor Department, called on the representatives of both sides to come to his office and there proposed that the entire matter be left for arbitration. Vice-president Monosson, for the union, agreed that the question of an increase in wages be left to arbitration, but not the demand for recognition of the union, for that is a matter of principle, and cannot be arbitrated. The Mayor agreed with this contention of the union.

An arbitration committee was then appointed, composed of two from the union, two from the manufacturers and headed by Counsellor C. N. Mahoney, legal advisor to the Mayor.

At the time of writing, this arbitration board is still in session and the results are not known yet, but we all hope and expect a speedy adjustment of this general strike, and a complete victory.

The Crisis in the Waist Industry of N. Y.

By CHARLES JACOBSON

The Waistmakers' Union, Local 25, is now facing a crisis. The situation is very serious and complicated. In the past two years, since the old Local 25 was organized, the waist trade has been in the throes of an industrial crisis. Not only have the union shops been idle, but the open shops had hardly any work. Women stopped wearing waists and the small quantity of waists that was required was easily supplied by the non-union shops in the smaller towns around New York—at such low prices as precluded any possibility for the New York manufacturers to compete with them.

The first to suffer were the union shops. The employers began to cut down wages and lower other union standards, which naturally met with resistance from the union. One union shop after another began to close its doors and in their place there have grown up a considerable number of non-union shops. Meanwhile the workers, starved by the ensuing idleness, began to fill up the non-union shops and to submit to all oppression and misery that prevailed in these establishments. But even this would not help. The employers did not seem to be able to find a market for their products, owing to the very much lowered demand for gowns, so it came to pass that these non-union shops began to close one after another, leaving in existence only a handful of the worst shops, where miserable sweatshop conditions prevailed and where workers could not hope to eke out even a bare existence after a full week's labor.

As a result, a large number of waistmakers began to drift away from the trade; most of them became dressmakers and others found employment in other branches of the needle industry. Their places in the waist shops were taken by "green" hands who were ready to work for even a starvation wage. Needless to say, these circumstances have affected Local 25 very badly. Members who found employment at other trades left the local and joined other locals. In this manner, Local 25 lost thousands of members and was left only with a handful. Part of these were employed in the few union waist shops which survived the crisis and a few others worked in dress shops. These remained in Local 25 because they could not make up their minds to leave the organization at such a critical period. They fought self-sacrificingly to keep up the improvised local, hoping against hope that a change might come in the waist trade and that they might again succeed in galvanizing Local 25 into a strong and healthy trade-union body. The Dress and Waist Joint Board offered this loyal group of waistmakers a great deal of assistance and in this manner succeeded in saving it from going under.

The results of the strenuous effort were after all quite gratifying. After the close of the general strike in February, 1923, signs began to appear of an actual revival of the trade. Thereupon Local 25, with the aid of the Joint Board, began to fortify its position with renewed energy and this met with considerable success. Of course with their resources still weak and limited, not very much could be accomplished and a great deal has to be left over for the coming fall season, when another attempt will be made to rebuild the waistmakers' union. But right now, when the prospects seem to be quite bright and the outlook for the fall season very encouraging, there has appeared on the horizon another cloud which threatens to snuff out of existence Local 25, and to destroy all its plans for the future.

In accordance with the decision adopted by the Cleveland Convention, the General Executive Board decided to consolidate Locals 22 and 23 into one local. The principal point of this consolidation plan is the placing of the dress industry under the control of the Cloak Joint Board. It would mean that the locals at present affiliated with the Dress Joint Board would have to affiliate with the Cloak Joint Board and the inevitable dissolution of the Dress Joint Board. But the waistmakers' local is not regarded by the G. E. B. as part of the dress industry under the control of the Cloak Joint Board and there was therefore to be no place for it in the Cloak Joint Board.

In our sincere opinion, the G. E. B. is making a great mistake in this respect. The principal reason for this consolidation of the dress and cloak industry in one joint board is that many cloak manufacturers have opened dress departments, and also because many cloak and dress contractors work for the same jobs. For this it is deemed necessary that the cloak shops and the dress shops be controlled from one central body with the same standards to be maintained in both. This is very logical and thoroughly consistent.

But the same logic and argument applies also to the waist trade. Dress departments in the cloak shops are a feature that is but a few years old, whereas shops where both dresses and waists are being made have existed for decades. In other words, while waistmakers and cloakmakers have no direct relation with each other, they both have an immediate relationship with the dressmakers, which is similar to a chain consisting of numerous links, in which the first links, while not having direct contact with the last links, are nevertheless, united to each other through the center links.

Another thing,—it happens very often that the cloakmakers take jobs in waist shops, while it is almost in-

(Continued on Page 11)

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel.: Chelsea 2148.

MORRIS SIGMAN, President. S. YANOFFSKY, Editor.

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer. ABRAHAM TUVIM, Business Manager.

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year

Vol. V, No. 23. Friday, June 1, 1923.

Entered as Second Class matter, April 18, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptances for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

Lithuanian Silhouettes

By A. YOUNGHWITZ

He worked in a shoe factory, and his face bore the stamp of one who spends long hours indoors. He was tall, and he walked with that head-forward movement that comes with stooped shoulders. Yet there was something stubborn, and even confident in his stride.

They lived one block apart, and each evening after work he came over to sit by her. Her pale, narrow face would smile upon him with an arrested friendliness, which would not leave her countenance all the while he sat and watched her run the sewing machine. She was a seamstress and took in jobs from the outside. Her earnings were a regular part of the family income and relieved her father's budget greatly.

The girl had no mother and from her very young days had kept house, cooked and cleaned for her father. After she went to work in a shop, she managed to prepare her father's fare in the brief interval between his and her coming from work. For this the neighbors would say that Mirele—that was her name—had golden hands.

Later she left the shop. She became a seamstress "for herself," and found it not difficult, with the name she acquired, to get work. So she would sit day in and day out at the machine, would sew and seam and sing of a lover,—her lover, whom she would eagerly await, all a-tremble. And thus sewing and singing, the days would pass and the evening

would come, and then he would saunter in to while an hour or two away with Mirele.

Of what did they talk?

It is difficult to say. He did most of the talking. He had a quiet, pleasant manner of speaking and he would tell her of the "labor movement" and its wonders, and Mirele would listen and occasionally nod her head in agreement.

"The labor movement is all over and everywhere," his voice would rise somewhat excitedly. "Some day it will rule the world!" Somehow, inevitably after such discourses, they would hum together songs of labor and of want,—songs that harmonized so well with the way they lived and the things that surrounded them.

Mirele's father rather welcomed the quiet and, in his opinion, rather substantial young man, and more than once he approached his daughter about bringing this friendship to its logical conclusion. The old man wanted Mirele to obtain the young man's promise. "Mirele is an orphan, and she must not let this matter drag out too long." In vein did the girl try to make him understand that the young man was coming around just to spend a little time with her.

"A little time!" The father would interrupt and once even lost his temper. "He spends whole evenings here, and almost every evening in the week. I think I ought to talk with him if you won't."

Then Mirele would cry, which would

disarm her father and make him keep his peace. And towards evening, when the young shoemaker would come again to visit—his Mirele the father would meet him with as friendly a welcome as if nothing had taken place, as if he had meant no offense with his remarks an hour before. Again they would sit and talk quietly between themselves. His voice was as pleasant and as necessary to her as ever,—and her pale face would blossom and add greatly to her charm.

One evening when he came to visit her, he found her out. He waited a while, and in the meantime the old men engaged him in a talk. Slowly the father led the talk to the point of marriage, and bluntly told the young man there was no sense nor reason in dragging out the affair between him and his daughter too long, and that an "end must come." The young man sat silent and smiled in his pleasant way, but, without waiting for Mirele, rose and bade the old man a quiet good-night. And when Mirele came, she felt bad over his precipitate leaving. But her father said nothing to her about the conversation he had had with the young man.

Then a week passed—a long week, with seven long evenings, and he did not show up. Mirele grew sad and much paler, and between her and her father there grew an invisible wall, as if they hardly had one word to say to each other. But the father watched how pale and worried Mirele grew, and on the eighth evening he went to see the young man. He found him in his room, book in hand. The young shoemaker met him with the

same quiet, somewhat mysterious smile, asked him to sit down and started an open-hearted and frank conversation. He told him without changing his voice that he did not think of marriage, that he was far from such plans and that he would rather not talk about it at all.

"But a Jewish daughter and an orphan, to boot, must not be misled and deceived," the old man came back at him quietly.

"I have not misled any one. I only came to sit and talk, and if you believe that this is wrong, then, I shall not come any longer."

Then the old father got up and walked over to this quiet young man, and in a voice as low as a whisper, as if he were telling him a secret, related to him the whole affair—that he came to see him without Mirele's knowledge and that since the young shoemaker stopped visiting their home, the girl has been entirely not herself. The young man looked up and saw tears in the father's eyes.

And the following evening he came again to spend an hour or two with Mirele. She met him with a beaming face and wondered why he had not been around for so many days.

"No reason," he answered, with the same familiar smile that she knew and needed so much.

And again they sat in their favorite corner and kept on talking about things they liked most. Occasionally she would nod her head in approbation, and infrequently the crimson would mount to her cheeks and add so much more charm to her delicate little head bent over the garment she was sewing.

Two Political Prisoners Dying

A campaign has been launched to secure the release from the Leavenworth federal penitentiary of two young men, Ed. Quigley and Cesar Tabib, confined as political prisoners for the past five years and now dying of tuberculosis.

A similar concerted effort a little over a year ago secured the release of another tubercular political prisoner, William Weyh, but only when he was at death's door, with twelve hemorrhages a day, and after his wife and mother had been sent for by the prison authorities in order to be with him at the last. Weyh has since been cared for by friends in Arizona, where he is still making a game fight for life.

The friends of Quigley and Tabib, after months spent in trying to overcome the callous indifference of the Washington officials, finally obtained permission to have the two young men examined by a Kansas City specialist, Dr. Allen L. Porter. Dr. Porter's report just issued has aroused those interested to still more deter-

mined efforts to secure the release of these men before it is too late for them to have even a fighting chance for life.

Of each of these sick men the specialist says, "It would be of material advantage to him to be moved to a different climate and there is no doubt his life would be prolonged if such could be accomplished."

It was the harsh conditions of their imprisonment preceding trial that sowed the seeds of the deadly disease in these two young fellows, at that time in their twenties. They were both members of the famous Sacramento I. W. W. "silent defense" group. When brought to trial, after lying in filthy jails for over two years, during which time five of their number died of disease and one went insane from the brutal treatment they received, the 37 who arrived refused to present any defense, maintaining that it is "useless for workmen to try to get justice in the capitalist courts."

OUR STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEETS

A meeting of the Students' Council of our Workers' University and Unity Centers was held last Thursday.

For several hours, the representatives of our student body discussed the educational activities of last season and made suggestions for the future. The points discussed were very interesting and will be helpful to the Educational Department as well as to the teachers.

Both the department and the teachers appreciate the value of praise and criticism coming from the student body.

It was gratifying to note the interest displayed by the students in their discussion of ways and means to further our work and to call attention of more members to our educational activities.

DEBS' DATES IN MIDDLE WEST

The Debs' Tour Committee, under the auspices of which Eugene Debs, the veteran Socialist and labor leader, is now touring the United States, and whose great meeting last week in New York created such a storm, has arranged to have him speak during June in a number of Middle Western cities. The Committee is in touch with the principal labor organizations in these places—among these the locals of the International Ladies' Garment Workers—who are doing all in their power to make these meetings a stirring success.

Debs' itinerary so far is as follows: Cleveland, June 10; Youngstown, June 20; Cincinnati, June 21; Columbus, June 22.

Union Health Center News

Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and their friends are cordially invited to the first kick of the Union Health Center. We will meet at the foot of the Dyckman Street Station. Those living on the East Side can take the Lexington Avenue Subway to 42d Street, there take the shuttle to the West Side, and then take the Van Cortlandt Park train, getting off at Dyckman Street. Do not forget! Sunday, June 3d, at 9:30 at the foot of the Dyckman Street Station. Do not fail to come! Come and participate in the good time that is sure to be had by all.

Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union can secure one bottle of mouth wash, a prophylactic tooth brush and a tube of tooth paste all for the minimum sum of fifty cents, by applying to the Dental Department of the Union Health Center, 131 East 17th Street.

This was specially arranged for the Call Bazaar and the Dental Department happens to have several hundred packages left over. It is urged that those workers preparing for their summer vacations step in now, for a bargain of this sort will not be repeated again.

Hay Fever Clinic.

The Hay Fever Clinic is now in operation. Those workers suffering from hay fever are urged to make appointments at the Union Health Center for treatment for this disease. This is the time for treatment of hay fever cases which come in June and July.

Special Gynecological Clinic.

The Special Gynecological Clinic is being conducted on Friday, at 12:30 for the benefit of married women, members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Appointments must be made in advance for this clinic.

YOUR DENTIST

Have your teeth thoroughly examined, without cost to you, by your own dentist at the Union Health Center, 131 East 17th Street.

The Dental Department of the Union Health Center served 10,000 workers during the year 1922, members of the I. L. G. W. U. and their families.

The Dental Department is equipped to serve EVERY member of the Union this year.

The Dental Department of the Union Health Center is Your Dentist. Charges are based on costs, not profits. Remember, a small cavity today means a bad tooth tomorrow.

Office Hours: Daily, 10 A. M.—8 P. M.
Saturday, 10 A. M.—5 P. M.

Again the Open Shop

By J. CHARLES LAURE

Once more the employing class as represented by the National Association of Manufacturers has proclaimed its allegiance to the "open shop" (actually a shop barred to union members) and announced its devotion to the workman who is free to make an individual contract with the particular corporation he elects to work for.

A platform of principles to sustain the "individual liberty" of every worker was drawn up at the recent convention of the N. A. M. that will be presented at the conventions of the two old political parties for incorporation into their national programs. The platform of labor consists of ten planks calculated to bring about another industrial war on the unions only lately relieved of the struggle to resist the union-crushing campaign launched by the "open shop" manufacturers immediately after the war, for the meaning of the declaration is that the big industries will resist any attempt to organize the great mass of workers in the basic industries.

The principal associations antagonistic to organized labor in addition to the trusts are federated organizations which they have created, such as the National Association of Manufacturers, the largest, the National Founders' Association, the League for Industrial Rights, the National Erectors' Association, the National Metal Trades' Association, the Store Founders' Association and a score of others. It is no mistake to say that these organizations given way to that enlightened public opinion which supports the worker's desire to discuss and come to an agreement collectively with the powerful employing groups on the vital matter of wages, hours and working conditions that determine his life and that of his family.

It was said of the Bourbons of France that they never learned anything, nor did they ever forget anything. With the economic trend once more in favor of the workers, it was expected that the employing class would moderate its stand this year. Such hope has been in vain for President Edgerton has announced for the big national manufacturers

that they intend to keep their shops closed to labor union influence, to maintain individual shop bargaining, to continue to deny to the workers any right in collective bargaining except through company unions, to maintain their right of discharge unlimited and to be free to set any wage, hour or working standard they see fit un molested by outside influence.

The words are exactly those that for ten years have been the cause of relentless war between the "open shop" employers as typified by the National Association of Manufacturers and the unions of the American Federation of Labor. During the war period a truce was declared between these two forces, which was broken soon after the armistice was signed to rage for two years with the labor forces at a disadvantage while the economic depression was being felt by everyone.

The big employers through their legal advisers have assailed the laws that labor has obtained after a long period of agitation, securing the nullification of the most important protective legislation on appeals to the United States Supreme Court, and by their political influence expect to induce the old parties to pledge themselves to a program that will prevent any further growth of organized labor among the workers in the unorganized industries.

The click of the gold to the war chests and the deflection of the big employers in all but aid, for their wars on labor are financed by per capita tax just as the unions finance their struggles for better wages with strike funds collected over a long period. The employers, however, assess themselves from two to fifty times as much to fight labor as labor does to defend itself. Their total funds run into the billions to combat labor, it is estimated.

The international unions comprising the American Federation of Labor contribute 12 per cent a year for each member to maintain the Federation, which is the chief instrument to offset the public attacks of the "open shop" groups. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union contributes

approximately \$10,000 a year as its share to maintain the Federation. To maintain the "open shop," single corporations will contribute as much as \$50,000 in a year. It is not possible to know for example how much money per worker is raised by the National Association of Manufacturers. In the case of some employers' associations, there are secret funds which make proper comparison impossible.

But the tax made upon the workers by the corporations to finance the fight against labor is many times greater than the trifling contributions which workers make voluntarily for the purpose of protecting their own freedom and their own interests.

Among the known assessments levied by employers are the following: The Store Founders' National Defense Association receives \$120 a year per worker employed by its members.

The National Metal Trades Association that maintains the "open shop" in the machine industry collects \$2.40 a year for every worker in the shop.

The League for Industrial Rights, the legal clearing house for the "open shop" associations, gets \$3 a year per worker, or \$1,000 of payroll.

The National Founders' Association receives \$6 a year per worker employed.

The National Association of Manufacturers gets its fees in lump sums, while the United States Chamber of Commerce and its numerous subordinate chambers are all handsomely supported, to defend the interests of the employing class.

To offset these propaganda funds of big business, the American Federation of Labor last year derived from the per capita tax of one cent a month per member the sum of \$417,000 from all its affiliated internationals.

These funds were not raised secretly, as is the case with the millions raised by the "open shop" employers' groups, and the expenditure is accounted for publicly in the annual reports.

The whole financial turnover is ridiculously small for an organization with over 200,000 members and the benefits that accrue to the organized and unorganized workers as a result of the Federation's activity.

Combating the "open shop" and preventing its plans to hamstring the labor movement from enactment is largely the work of the legislative and political agents of the Federation. Much of the important work in his position as spokesman for the entire movement is accomplished by the president of the Federation. In the year just passed he engaged in 694 conferences, travelled 35,000 miles on 60 railroad trips, gave 146 newspaper interviews, delivered 66 public addresses in addition to the mass of routine work devolving upon him.

With the National Association of Manufacturers still bent upon its campaign of destruction of the labor movement, much more work and more funds will be required for the intense period of activity that lies immediately ahead for the workers of America if they would regain what was taken from them during the depression period and set new standards of living for the wage earners.

If you want the Negro workers in your shop to join the Union, to become members in the great army of organized labor, ask them to read—

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How English Labor Protested

By EVELYN SHARP

(London Daily Herald Service)

The National Protest All over the country public protest was made by organized labor and the Independent Labor Party, and of course by the Communist Party, against the threat of the government to break off trade relations with Russia on pretexts that were open to negotiations. Large demonstrations were held in London and all the large towns in England and Scotland, at which it was pointed out that on all grounds of justice as well as expediency a breach with Russia was indefensible, whether the diplomats were sincere or not in disavowing any intention of provoking a war. As Mr. Ramsay MacDonald pointed out in the House last night, a state of "incident war" would be bound to follow the breaking off of trade relations. But it is not only the Labor Party that is against the government in this matter. In the House of Commons and in the press, the extreme Tory position, of course, is that of Lord Curzon—destroy the Bolsheviks on any pretext that can be trumped up, simply because the Soviet government shows alarming signs of "making good" and its success might mean Bolshevism at home; and where would the Tories be then? But even in the House some Tories were to be

found who saw the folly of injuring British trade with Russia, while liberal reunion, hitherto unattained, seemed in sight during the Russian debate in the Commons, when Mr. Asquith associated himself publicly with Mr. Lloyd George's protest against the government's Russian note and their declaration that the Soviet reply was unsatisfactory. And naturally, business men are anxious not to see a Russian trade ruin which would mean unemployment to thousands in the coal and agricultural implement trade in this country.

The concessions to the effect that the ultimatum would be extended as long as the time limit, and that meanwhile Mr. Krasin would be received by Lord Curzon and negotiations permitted, may be taken as forced from the government by all the opposition roused in the country; and perhaps the declaration in the House by the under-secretary for foreign affairs, Mr. McNeill, that not a jot of the British demands would be abated, may be taken also as window-dressing to appease the Tories who whine their threat for Bolshevism blood to show their horror of murder. But the position still remains critical, as must all our relations with foreign countries so long

as we have them conducted by men with the old bad outlook, and the old bad prejudices.

Habeas Corpus and the Irish Rebels

It is an ironic circumstance that a conservative government, like the one now in power in this country, should be the one to break the law, in view of its continual diatribes against Bolshevism which it regards as synonymous with lawlessness. Perhaps the most striking illustration lies at the basis of our liberties and was secured by the people after armed conflict with the King, on more than one occasion in our history, may have something to do with the Home Secretary's disregard for the Act of Habeas Corpus when he deported British subjects to Ireland and allowed them to be interned there without trial. Mr. Asquith's action, first lost and then won on appeal both to the higher court and finally to the House of Lords, whether the government took it, has become a test action of the whole proceedings; and the deportees will now be released in bulk, though some of them will be re-arrested on definite charges and brought to trial. This is a blow to the government, we might say, would suppose, to lead to its fall. It has, however, only led to the resignation of the Home Secretary who was actually responsible for the deportations, while, with cynical disregard for England's hard-won liberties, the government has already introduced a

bill to indemnify him and "others" for their illegal action. This will be rushed through Parliament immediately after the Whitsuntide recess, the government majority alone making this possible. The opposition, however, will doubtless see that the course of this humiliating measure is not an easy one.

The Building Dispute

The arbitration to which the building dispute was referred as an alternative to the employers' lockout, some weeks ago, has resulted in a decision which secures further wage reductions from being made on any basis other than the cost of living, while allowing the employers to make half the reduction now that they wished to make originally, and forbidding them to make any other until next January. The decision is important in making it impossible for other employers also to cut down wages arbitrarily in their several trades; so the building operatives have gained a good deal by the stand they took. A somewhat similar victory has been gained for trade unionism in the Saar Valley, where the miners have been on strike against the French mine directors for fourteen weeks and have secured wage increases of three to five francs in answer to their demand for seven francs. What is more important, they have defeated the French attempt to break the German trade unions which was really at the back of the dispute.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y.

TEL: Chelsea 2148

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Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year

Vol. V, No. 23.



Friday, June 1, 1923.

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y. under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

EDITORIALS

THE FRISCO CLOAK EMPLOYERS IN BONDAGE

The report on the cloakmakers' strike in San Francisco, read by Secretary-Treasurer Baroff at the special meeting of the General Executive Board, has aroused within us many mixed feelings. But uppermost in our minds was a feeling of strong sympathy with the poor enlaved cloak manufacturers of that city.

We should like the reader not to regard this as irony. Neither is it a figure of speech. The cloak manufacturers of San Francisco are today the chattel slaves of the Industrial Association of San Francisco, an organization which had undertaken upon itself the sacred mission of smashing the unions of the Golden Gate City and to convert this erstwhile citadel of unionism into an open-shop city. Our cloak manufacturers in Frisco are fast in the clutches of his body of union-smashers and all that they do and say is merely an echo, of the outpourings of the Industrial Association.

Every move made by them to bring this strike to an end serves to substantiate our point of view. It is clear as daylight that the strike will ruin them. They have obtained a handful of strikebreakers who are costing them huge sums of money and who cannot, of course, make their garments. None of them is a wealthy person. Another week or two and they will all be broke. It is natural, therefore, that they should be glad to settle the strike and to have their workers return to the shops. But behind their shoulders there stands the Devil, the Industrial Association, who will not let them say the right word.

All they have to say is that they will recognize the union and will deal with its representatives, but they dare not say a word. And whenever an attempt is made to come to a settlement, they plead, they make all sorts of promises, but one thing they cannot do; they are forbidden to deal with the union. Meanwhile the strike goes on and each day these gentlemen are getting nearer to bankruptcy, nearer to their business eclipse.

This is the tragic side of the cloakmakers' strike in San Francisco. The strikers are justly earning our admiration. After three months of fighting, not one of them has left the ranks, not one of them has deserted the struggle for the principles of unionism. Have in mind that they are not fighting for an increase in wages. They are fighting for union recognition which is of value not only to themselves but to the entire labor movement of San Francisco. Local 8 of San Francisco, be it stated, was the first labor organization in that city to display firm resistance to the open shop plague which all but engulfed the local trade unions.

The firm and heroic struggle of our San Francisco brothers cannot be regarded as a tragedy,—far from it—they are writing a golden page into the book of the labor movement of America. The only tragedy of that strike is the position of the manufacturers, who would settle but cannot, who would recognize the union but are afraid—these poor slaves of the Industrial Association.

The story of how these employers sold their souls to the Devil is quite simple. When the workers first walked out, the employers for the moment, feeling helpless and yet aching for a fight with their workers, applied to the Industrial Association for aid. The Association consented to give them this aid, but on condition that it become the leaders, the director of the strike, as it were. In a light-hearted moment, the cloak employers consented to it, hoping to win hands down against the union. But, now, after having lived through a three months' fight, they see what a devil of a mess they got into. But the long weeks of the strike have broken their willpower and now they willy-nilly must play to the tune of the Association.

The tragic-comical situation of the employers in the strike is accentuated still more by the following: They, the cloak employers, are united in an association. They have seen the wisdom of joining a union and have acted accordingly. Nevertheless, what they would have themselves, they would deny their workers. Listen to the following proposition which they made to the strikers in the course of one of the attempts to settle the conflict:

"4. Such a board should be appointed under one of the following conditions; namely, either upon the demand of the Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, or at the demand of any 50 persons who might at that time be employed in the industry in San Francisco."

Do you grasp that? They may demand the appointment of a board in the name of their association. The workers, however, cannot do it in the name of their union, but would have to collect 50 signatures from 50 individual workers and only then could such a board be appointed.

The most startling thing in the whole affair is that these employers have for a time believed that the union could adopt such a proposal. It is, indeed, a tragedy to watch persons who only a while ago acted in a pretty sane and clearheaded manner; who a while ago exercised their senses as free persons with a will of their own—masters of their own destiny so to say—become all of a sudden will-less tools of an outside group.

We would appeal to their common sense, we would talk to them in the name of their own interests, did not we know in advance that our appeal and our talk would be in vain. They have neither courage nor reason now. They are in the fast grip of a satanic power which is fighting labor on the Pacific Coast.

To the cloakmakers of San Francisco we can say one thing. The General Executive Board, after having listened to the report of Secretary Baroff, admires your struggle and the courageous fight you are putting up. We can assure you that every possible aid that the International can advance you in this fight against the open-shoppers in San Francisco, will be generously forthcoming.

THE CLOAK SITUATION IN MONTREAL

At that same meeting of the General Executive Board, President Sigman reported on his recent visit to Toronto and Montreal.

It was with a feeling of sincere relief and contentment that he told of the progress that is being made in Toronto—but he had very little encouraging to say about the state of affairs in the cloakmakers' organizations in Montreal. In this city, so it seems, the union has become very much weakened. The Montreal cloakmakers apparently are falling short of the understanding of practical, fighting unionism; they would have the fruits of organization fall down from above into their laps but are foreign to the idea that they themselves must fight and toil to make their union a strong effective body. As a result, matters are getting worse daily in Montreal, and if the workers of that city do not awaken to their senses at once and get to work, we shall not be surprised if very soon their union will be but a memory.

President Sigman did not mince words in his talk last week to the Montreal cloakmakers. He bluntly told them what he thought of their ways and methods of conducting an organization. He read them a "riot act" and pointed out to them that they need not expect the International to forever fight their battles for them while they themselves lift not a finger for their interests. He told them that the time of organizing unions through strikes is past and that organization work of the most thorough kind must precede every fight against the employers. He made it clear to them that no matter how much the International might be inclined to help them,—like the Almighty it would help them only if they helped themselves first.

President Sigman's straight from the shoulder remarks did not fail to produce the right impression. Right there at the meeting a committee of 50 persons was formed to undertake the task of bringing order out of chaos in the local cloak trade. The future destiny of the Montreal cloakmakers' organization lies now with this committee. If their work will bring results—and they only earnestly get to work—the International will share for the Montreal cloakmakers. But if they fail the International, much as it may dislike it, will have to leave the Montreal cloakmakers to their own fate.

This is our appeal to the cloakmakers of Montreal! It is high time to realize that indifference, callousness and disregard of your best interests have brought your organization to the brink of disaster. Your employers are perpetrating the most outrageous lookouts upon you and the judges are issuing barbarous injunctions against you. If your enemies have felt that they were dealing with a strong, virile, united body of men and women, be sure, their demeanor towards you would not have been so contemptuous and so drastic.

But they know that your organization is weak and they stop before nothing. Bear in mind that the fate of your families is depending solely upon you. You must again build up your union which finds itself in such a sorry plight today—and then, only then, shall you be able to undertake again the battle with the full assurance of success.

TEN YEARS OF RELIEF WORK IN LOCAL 35

Local 35, the union of the cloak pressers of New York, and one of the strongest unions affiliated with the International, may well be proud of its general activity as a fighting labor unit and of its special relief work, which was started about ten years ago.

It is in point to state here that ten years ago relief work of a labor union was being looked at askance. It was regarded, if not as a violation of union principles, at least as a work which has little in common with trade unionism. Relief activity, they used to say, would weaken the "revolutionary" spirit which should permeate all labor organizations. The cloak pressers obviously thought and felt differently on this subject. They could not understand why a labor union, based on the principle of mutual aid in time of struggle against employer for higher wages, shorter hours and general shop improvements—could not take into its program activities of mutual aid affecting a union member when out of work,—when his family is afflicted with sickness when regular earnings do not meet the extra expenses, or when he is sick and cannot for a time help himself and those depending upon him.

The cloak pressers, to whom perhaps more than any other of our workers the book of life is the only book of knowledge, paid little attention to those "theoreticians" within our ranks

Gary's Statement and Gompers' Answer

By R. MEIMAN

(Special Washington Correspondence to Justice.)

Judge Gary, president of the Steel Trust, spoke before the Iron and Steel Institute last week, and in this speech he made two assertions which were featured by the newspapers all over the country as first-page news; first, that we must become more religious and that religion is the best cure for the world's evils; second, that the steel mills cannot give up the 12-hour workday.

The world is steeped in sins. We do not go to church as often as we ought to, we do not pray enough, and give but scant attention to the Living Word. That is why mankind is suffering. More religion will do away with our ills—nevertheless the workers in the steel industry must continue to work twelve hours a day and seven days a week.

A person of culture and education has the impudence to utter a statement of this kind, and the newspapers of the land are carrying this message far and wide and are filling their columns with praise of the depth of wisdom and of the high moral content in these two important statements, made by the president of the Steel Trust.

Samuel Gompers replied to the statement of Judge Gary, but the statement of the president of the American Federation of Labor received by far no such wide publicity as did the statement of the president of the Steel Trust. When Gompers attacks "Reds," he gets a lot of publicity, but when he attacks capital, particularly such a bitter and powerful opponent as the chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation—then the newspapers are not so keen to make use of all he says.

Gompers naturally emphasizes in particular the part of Mr. Gary's report which refers to labor hours. If stands to reason that Gompers would not debate with Gary over the problem of more or less prayers as a means of remedying the world's ills. In fact, we are inclined to believe that had Gary given up his job as president of the Steel Trust and become a missionary or an evangelist or had "hit the trail" of Billy Sunday, Gompers would not have taken issue with him in principle. Gary, however, is inclined to hand out advice to other folks regarding the easiest way to kingdom come while he himself admonishes his hosts of workers to toil longer and harder, trying all the while to create the impression that he is following such a course out of sheer concern for the weal of mankind and not, perish the thought, for the Steel Corporation.

Gompers therefore deemed it appropriate to issue a statement right after Gary made his utterances at the Iron and Steel Institute, in which the labor leader denounces the hypocritical assertion which Gary makes with regard to the impossibility of

the abolition of the twelve-hour day for steel workers.

Here is what Gompers says:

"According to the report submitted by Mr. Gary to the American Iron and Steel Institute he bases his refusal to abolish the twelve-hour day on three propositions, as follows:

1. That the agitation for reduced hours does not come from the workers themselves.

2. That it would increase prices 15 per cent.

3. That there is not sufficient labor to supply three shifts a day.

"As for the first proposition it is most surprising that Mr. Gary's memory is so short. It has not been so long ago that about 300,000 employees in the steel industry ceased work to secure better conditions, and their main contention was for the eight-hour day.

"According to the second proposi-

tion, the economic conditions of the employees in the steel industry must be sacrificed in the interest of prices and profits. Not a thought of the souls of men, only the profits that can be wrung out of the overworked and underpaid employees. It is a matter of industrial history that when the long hour work day was reduced to eight, the production cost and the selling price of the product were invariably reduced.

"As to the third, that is a platitude that should shame even its authors. If the United States Steel Corporation and the other steel industries would pay sufficient wages they could secure all the workers they needed, if they do need them, at the present time. Only the other day 20,000 men applied for work on the steamer *Leviathan*, where only 1,100 were needed. A few days ago 2,000 men and women stood in line, some of them all night,

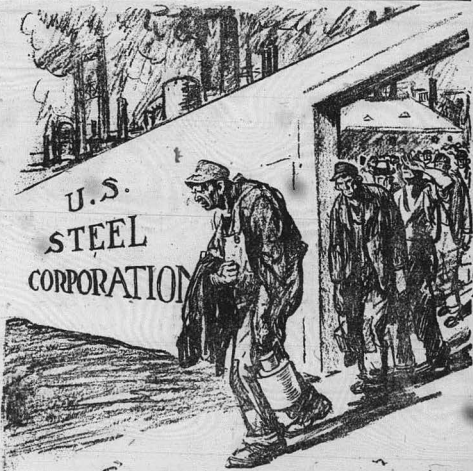
at the District Building, Washington, D. C., to make application in answer to a notice that a few laborers and charwomen were needed.

"Mr. Gary must also have forgotten that a little more than a year ago there were approximately 6,000,000 unemployed workers in the United States. If he had any intention of introducing the eight-hour day he would have done it then. But he did not and he waits until now to take advantage of the propaganda that is being spread broadcast for months in favor of letting down the bars to immigration from southeastern Europe.

"I must believe that the twelve-hour day is an institution which the steel industry never intends to give up. And the best evidence is the report of the special investigating committee of which Mr. Gary is the chairman."

Of course we are not quite in accord with President Gompers' conclusion with regard to immigration. The American Federation of Labor has long since adopted the ill-advised position that free immigration is against

(Continued on page 11)



THE WORKMEN PREFER THE LONGER HOURS—JUDGE GARY.

Courtesy N. Y. Morning World

who believed that relief work was not sufficiently revolutionary, and introduced it in their local.

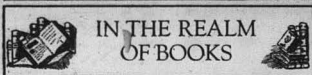
The result proved that the cloak pressers were much wiser than those who pretended to be their teachers. Relief activity not only did not interfere with their daily struggle against the masters for better and more comfortable living, but, on the other hand, contributed to the local's strength. The relief work has bound the members with faster ties to the organization.

At the beginning, to be sure the relief work was running far from smooth. Experience was lacking and errors were frequently made. There were also cases of unscrupulous acts on the part of some members who endeavored to obtain relief when they were not entitled to it. Men with less endurance and less confidence in the usefulness of such work would have lost courage long ago and given up the ghost. The pressers, however, felt that in order to have a chance in the bitter fight for existence, they must unite in every way possible in order to win. They did not give up the relief work of their local in spite of all difficulties, and after the first few hard years passed, this work became an inseparable part of the union.

In the course of ten years, thousands and thousands of persons were aided in Local 35 when help to them was most welcome, when they were threatened to be crushed between the millstone of a worker's life. The union would then lift them, and try to put them on their feet once more.

The most attractive part of this relief work, however, is the fact that the members of the union who received such aid were never made to feel that they were receiving alms. They were aided by a fund which they themselves together with their brother workers had raised for such a purpose.

Local 35 has every reason to celebrate this ten years of their wide and useful relief work. We greet with a feeling of sincere joy the members of Local 35 and their capable and loyal leaders upon this event. We hope that they will not stop at this form of relief work only. The field of mutual aid is very big and as yet only a few corners of it have been tilled and cultivated by the union. As the union grows and becomes stronger, its members will turn their attention to the other forms and aspects of mutual aid until the union becomes a most potent factor in every plane and walk of our workers' lives.



The Inside Story of Mexico

By BERTHA WALLERSTEIN

We have not been exactly sisterly to our sister republic and next door neighbor to the south. We know her far less than many of our European cousins, and are only thinking of recognizing her as a member of our family of nations, after six years. But, thanks to Edward Alsworth Ross, professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin, we have a chance to know her now. We have a chance to know her through Professor Ross's book, as we have had a chance to know Russia through journalists and students of human nature and of revolutions who have travelled there, and whose books fill the shop windows.

In Mexico, as in Russia, there has been a revolution. In Mexico, as in Russia, that revolution has brought up the question of recognition by the United States Government. But it is probable that Russia has suffered more than Mexico through lack of recognition, because she is so sorely in need of an increase of international trade, and of importation of up-to-date machinery. Russia had not been exploited by foreign capitalists before the revolution to anything like the extent that Mexico had been exploited, and so she is in more need of contact with modern industrial countries.

But if modern industrialism has a more secure footing in Mexico than in Russia, the revolution has not gone nearly so far there. The upheaval in industry or in agriculture has not been nearly so great. To begin with industry, there is no state capitalism in Mexico, and no Soviets. But labor laws are far in advance of those in America. There is, for instance, a minimum wage law for both sexes. There is a six-hour day for working children, and an eight-hour day for adults. Most striking are the laws about strike pay and a dismissal wage. Every worker who is discharged without just cause, or who quits his job because his boss treated him unjustly, is given three months' pay. There is legal arbitration of strikes, which does not abridge the right to strike, but if the arbitration board holds that the strike is justified, the employer may be ordered to pay the workers all or part of the wages for time which they have lost.

It has been said that the labor movement is more a question of psychology than of economics. Professor Ross, as a social psychologist, puts the psychological factors in the foreground of the picture. To begin with, there is no color line in Mexico. There are mixed bloods, and nearly pure Indians. The men on top are largely of mixed blood. Labor is overwhelmingly mixed or Indian. Capital, on the other hand, is largely white and foreign. Consequently, labor is rather nationalist, and capital internationalist. The Government is distinctly pro-labor, guarding the citizens against foreign capital.

But it takes more than race to explain the Mexican labor movement. The first big fact is a low standard of living. Disease runs riot. The death rate is about three times that of the United States. The houses are unsanitary, damp and chilly. The Mexican loses sleep because he is cold. Alcohol claims his spare earnings and vitality. The labor movement and alcohol are waging war for the souls of the workers. "Workmen, do not go to the saloon, go to school,"

says the banners in the workers' parades.

The Mexican standard of living is low, but the labor movement has done much to raise it, especially in the towns, where the wage is now seventy cents a day. The labor movement has done more than that for Mexico. It has done there what it has done for labor in all latitudes and longitudes. Says a mining engineer: "This is a new Mexico. Economically the Indian miner is a little better off, but psychologically he is altogether different. It is dangerous now to beat or kick or curse him. You have to speak to him and treat him as if he were a British Columbia miner. He is no longer a cowed man. He feels that his kind are on top and he straightens up with a new-born sense of self-respect."

The unions have done all of their work in the last seven years. The American railroad brotherhoods began it by organizing men on the railroads. The American Federation of Labor followed up by encouraging unionization in general. From 1917 to 1922 the "Federation of Labor" in Mexico grew from 80,000 to 600,000, and there are several large unions outside the Federation. The Bureau of Labor estimates that 12 per cent of rural labor and 50 per cent of mine and factory labor are organized. Labor leaders claim 20 per cent of rural and 60 per cent of industrial labor. But whether these unions are industrial or craft, what are their fighting methods? What is the size and organization of their employers, what methods their employers use, how far industrial processes are developed—all these things about the labor movement Professor Ross does not tell us. He touches on the rather theoretical divisions between "reds" and "yellows." It seems that labor leaders for the most part are anti-union. Certainly there is more for a book on the Mexican labor movement alone.

In Mexico as in Russia a big feature of the revolutionary program has been the transfer of land ownership. Again, Mexico is not so drastic as Russia. The revolutionists decided to return the community lands to the villages, from which they had been taken under Juarez and Diaz, and sold to private owners. Any village may put in a claim for land thus taken, and the local land commission decides the claim, but does not touch any estate under 125 acres. In a sense, this is no revolution, for it merely restores to the village what had formerly been its legal property. However, any village which had no legal claim can be donated enough land to give each family from 12 to 15 acres. Reallocation of land along these lines is still going on. When completed, the land revolution may be the biggest achievement of the Mexican revolution.

But side by side with it is a real land feudalism. There are great estates, where the owner is a patriarch and monarch over hundreds or perhaps thousands of peons. He is responsible for bodies and souls. He gives them houses to live in and fields to till. He appoints their parish priest. He settles their family quarrels and calls them to account for misdemeanors. He commands part of the product of their labor. These peons are children, for they have al-

ways been treated as children. When some of them win land for themselves, they get into debt, and within six months get their former masters to take them back on the old footing. Many educated Mexicans despair of doing anything with the present generation. Their hope is in the children. Education may fit them to take responsibilities which their parents cannot handle. This is the hope for the city workers as well as for the peasants.

Education has not made the headway in Mexico that it has in Russia. Largely illiterate, like the Russians at the time of the revolution, the Mexicans have not the same hunger for knowledge. They love ornaments more than books. Nor have the leaders of Mexico given education so high a place in their program of reform. Labor leaders look to land reform and the labor union to effect the kind of education which they think counts most—a higher standard of living. Public schools have been established for the children, but they are inadequate in equipment and teaching. Little has been done for adult

education. Education follows the old classic tradition. They read Homer and Shakespeare and Tolstoy, but they have not the simple, practical books, which a simple people requires. Professor Ross pleads that "the content of education needs to be democratized."

If he is right, the problem of popular education in Mexico is a harder nut to crack than that of workers' education in America. In addition to the American workers' limitations of time and opportunity, the Mexican, it would seem, is handicapped by a lower intelligence and narrower horizon. Perhaps Professor Ross is too condescending. It is not for us to decide at this distance. We hope that this book is the first of a series about Mexico, and that his successors will disagree violently with him and with each other. Only a whirlpool of facts and contradicting facts, of impressions and opposite impressions, seen from as many different eyes as those through which we have seen Russia—only this will give us an inkling of the inside truth of Mexico. We hope that Professor Ross has started something.

Impromptu

IMPROMPTU: A Novel in Four Movements, by Elliot D. Paol. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1932.

A novel in four movements, the author calls it. And that at once arouses interest in the book. Very modern, no doubt, I thought. And very modern, indeed, I found it. But also fundamental, vital and broadly human. Human with a comprehension of the people in the book and the environment that created them. The industrial town and its sordidness is no creature of Mr. Paol's brain. It is relentless reality. The reactions of his characters to the War for Democracy and its aftermath shows a keen insight into things as they are. Mr. Paol tells us what he sees, what he knows, and our own understanding and sympathies are broadened.

The story opens in Glendale, a small, nondescript town in Massachusetts, where Irwin Atwood, the principal actor in the book, is dragging out an uninteresting and unprofitable period at the town high school. His home life with his devoted and pathetic mother is dull to madness. Irwin tries to escape through smoking organs and an adolescent love affair. Somehow he graduates and goes to work in the Pratt Leather Company as a clerk. His pal also graduates and goes to work in the Pratt Leather Company as a clerk. The life of a clerk is dull. The boys are restless.

The United States enters the World War. Here at last is a chance to escape from Glendale and the Pratt Leather Company. Irwin Atwood enlists. His pal, Alfred Gerry enlists. Many young fellows enlist. "What's the use of waiting till they grab you?" The sooner one escapes from the monotony, the drabness of shop, factory and office, the better.

But there is no inspiration in Camp Devens. It is dull. Dull, dirty and profane. The boys are straining at the leash and unbearable routine. "Where do we go from here?"

The big day arrives. Thousands of young Americans are upon the great adventure. "The Yanks are coming!" They swear onto the big ocean liner with a feeling of release and anticipation of wonderful things. There are crowded bunks; vile food; misery of seasickness and stenches. Like many another doughboy Irwin Atwood ascribes his troubles to this particular boat; to this particular commandant.

The company arrives at Brest

There are interminable delays. Miles of deep mud. Tents pitched in swamps, lice-infested bodies. Pneumonia. Whither? Whither? Whither? Christ! Is there no justice anywhere?

There are the trenches. Confusion and dagoes and lying in ditches. Atwood's chum Gerry is borne away in a big Dodge car one day to return no more. Weeks and months of blood and filth and death. The heart seems to rot while one is still alive. No matter. One is soon dead. Torn by shells, or bayoneted through the bowels.

But Atwood does not die. He comes back to Glendale. The remainder of the Yankee Division is feted by the good citizens of Boston. His mother is dead. Well, it is better so. His pal Gerry's broken parents stare at him when he goes to see them and he himself is speechless and uncomfortable. The Pratt Leather Company gives him back his job. But he cannot work. What is this terrible feeling that says his very life is insanity? Atwood gets drunk. The office gives him a leave of absence with pay. He gets drunk again.

How terrible is his loneliness? He must go somewhere, do something! Women! Yes. Wonder what has become of Dorothy, his schoolyard sweetheart? Dorothy, with whom he spent a passionate night on the sands of Revere Beach.

Dorothy is now in Mrs. Mac's home—an 18 karat house where the inspector calls it. She supports a sick sister who lives by whiskey and Christian Science. Soon Irwin is also supported by her earnings. The sister seems in the way, so Irwin administers a towel across her mouth during one of her attacks and shuts off her breath forever. He flees from the sordid tenement and the sordid death.

Dazed after much wandering about, Irwin finds himself before an army recruiting tent. The only definite place for him to go! So Irwin Atwood becomes private Atwood 1st cl. Once more bugles, drills, vile food, profanity and—dullness.

Such is the story IMPROMPTU. The characters are alive. The patterns always convincing—human beings groping and struggling to survive. In a profound sympathy of his treatment, Mr. Paol has caught something of the vision of Dostoyevsky.

MATILDA ROBBINS.



DOMESTIC ITEMS

GREAT LAKES SAILORS RECEIVE LESS THAN UNSKILLED LABOR.

The Lake Carriers Association announced a ten per cent wage increase over the 1922 fall scale for employees on its Great Lake Steamers and barges effective May 1st, but even with this increase the wages of sailors will be less than that of unskilled labor ashore.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATES OIL INDUSTRY.

A general investigation of the oil industry is being made by the Department of Justice, officials said in connection with the recent inquiry by the Senate Committee headed by Senator La Follette. The government will determine whether any further action should be taken on the charges in the Committee report that the Supreme Court dissolution of the Standard Oil interests was ineffective.

COUNTRY'S PROSPERITY SEEN IN WAGE RAISES.

The pay envelopes of workers in virtually all principal industries are being increased steadily month by month as the result of raising wage scales. This means a greater purchasing power, and the latter means prosperity for the country. Increases in the average earnings per worker ranging up to 10.7 per cent were discovered in a survey of principal lines of manufacturing just completed by the Department of Labor.

U. M. W. A. REPRESENTATIVE CLAIMS OVER-PRODUCTION IN COAL.

Four thousand American coal mines could be boarded up and 200,000 miners turned loose for other industries and still there would be more than enough fuel dug to supply the nation's needs, John Moore, representative of the United Mine Workers of America, told the Yankers Board of Trade.

ALABAMA'S CONVICT LEASE SYSTEM A DISGRACE.

Speakers who addressed representatives of civic organizations in Birmingham, Ala., under the auspices of the League of Women Voters said that Alabama would have a worse reputation than Florida if the concealed truth about the methods of the convict lease system were known. All pleaded for the abolition of the convict lease system.

CONNECTICUT SEEKS REPEAL OF PRISON WHIPPING LAW.

The Connecticut State Legislature has been asked to repeal a law empowering the warden of the State Prison to "moderately whip" disobedient or disorderly convicts, not exceeding ten stripes for any one offense.

LABOR COLLEGE FOR NEW YORK CITY PLANNED.

Plans to establish a labor college in New York City in the fall have been formulated, according to a statement by Abraham Lefkowitz, chairman of the educational committee of the Central Trades and Labor Council. The Workers' Education Bureau of the American Federation of Labor is co-operating with the educational committee of the council in this movement.

INDUSTRIES CAUSE 16 PER CENT OF BLINDNESS.

Two hundred thousand accidents to the eyes of workmen occur in an industry each year and approximately 16 per cent of the total blind population of the country or 15,000 represent the industrial blind. These are two of the facts developed in an investigation of the eye hazards of industrial occupations which were conducted last year by the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. The study covered every state in the union and every industrial occupation.

800 PER CENT INCREASE IN PROFIT ON SUGAR.

H. Rieman Duval, president of the American Beet Sugar Company, told stockholders at the annual meeting that on sales of 65,000 bags between April 1 and May 16, there was a profit of about \$2.23 a hundred pound bag, compared with a profit of 25 cents on sugar sold during the same period last year.

MEANS TO CURB SUPREME COURT.

Senator Ladd of North Dakota in a speech in Los Angeles, suggests three ways to curb the Supreme Court power to annul congressional legislation. Every bill in Congress could include a provision denying the Supreme Court the "right of review," Ladd said. "Or Congress could pass a general act denying the Court the right of review or repeal the Judiciary Act of 1789, leaving the Court's original jurisdiction only as provided in the constitution."

LABOR DEPARTMENT PAYROLL CUT \$30,000.

An undetermined number of inspectors and other employees in the State Department of Labor and Industry in Pennsylvania will be dropped shortly, Commissioner Royal Meeker of the Department announced. Sufficient men will be discharged to cut the Department's payroll from \$80,000 to \$50,000 annually.

KENTUCKY MINERS ASK HELP OF COAL COMMISSION.

"Help us to be free wage earners" is the appeal voiced by a large number of American-born coal miners in Kentucky, in petitions filed with the United States Coal Commission. In their petition, the miners state: The coal operators force us through their personal agents to sign a contract that we will not join the United Mine Workers of America. If we do not sign the contract, then we are forced out of our jobs and forced out of the coal company houses.

FOREIGN ITEMS

RUSSIA

RUSSIAN TRADE.

A commercial authority, who has been engaged for two years on a systematic survey of the possibilities of Great Britain's foreign trade, declared that the Anglo-Russian trade is increasing at a rate that might easily reach within a very short time the pre-war standard of \$130,000,000 annually. To equip Russian agriculture alone, 3,000,000 ploughs, over 1,000,000 drills and nearly half a million reapers are needed at once, which Great Britain could supply if trade relations between the two countries were not broken off.

RUSSIAN RECOVERY.

According to an Exchange report, evidence of the recovery of Russia is given in figures issued regarding shipping. Seven hundred vessels entered Petrograd port in 1922 as against 366 in 1921, and 1,500 vessels are expected this year.

RECOGNITION OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

Mr. McNeill, answering a question in the House of Commons, said that the countries which have given "de jure" recognition to Russia are Germany, Poland, Persia, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Afghanistan and Turkey. "De facto" recognition has been given by Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND'S LABOR GAINS.

An early report of the elections in Queensland shows that the Labor government there has increased its majority from two to at least ten. All the Labor ministers have been returned.

FIRST OFFENDERS IN PRISON.

At the annual meeting of the National Association of Probation Officers, Mr. Clarke Hall, the well-known children's magistrate, stated that in 1921 3,000 youths between the age of 16 and 21 were sent to prison, and of these 55 per cent had never previously been charged. He added: "I must say that there is hardly any case in which a youth under 21 ought ever to be sent to prison for the first offense."

EGYPT

EGYPTIAN "CONSTITUTION."

In an interview at Aix-les-Bains on May 12, Zaglul Pasha declared that the constitution forced upon Egypt "is an attempt to deceive the nation not to realize its aspirations." He went on to say that people are flung into prison, houses searched, and liberty is "stifled without any known reason for definite accusation."

JAPAN

WORKING WOMEN IN JAPAN.

The latest available statistics (1920) show that the number of working women in Japan totalled 3,000,000. The highest proportion of these were in agriculture; private factories came next; there were also 300 women doctors, 47 writers, 21 chameleons and four detectives.

PROFESSOR AND WORLD WAR.

Professor Hishinuma, addressing the Japan Society in London on May 11, said that "unless some of the Western nations become awakened to the mistaken attitude towards the Eastern nations, the struggle between East and West will involve the whole of humanity in the most disastrous war the world has ever seen."

ENGLAND

A NEW "WAR" PICTURE.

Commissioned by the Imperial War Museum to print three pictures of the Versailles Peace Conference, Sir William Orpen has just thrown up his commission with regard to the third picture, sacrificing \$2,000 rather than continue to glorify an event which has made the work of the dead soldiers useless. Instead of painting the Hall of Mirrors filled with the generals and statesmen who drew up the Peace of Versailles, he has painted a picture of a hier covered with the British flag, on either side of which stands a soldier nearly nude, whose greenish flesh is in a state of putrefaction. He calls it "To the Unknown British Soldier in France," and it is drawing large crowds to the Royal Academy, this spring.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

A writer in the "Friends' Quarterly Examiner" recalls that 72,000 people were hanged for robbery in Henry VIII's reign, and suggests that this method was regarded as the 16th century remedy for unemployment. The Quakers will discuss the question of capital punishment at their quarterly meeting this month, which recalls George Fox's petition for its abolition to Parliament in 1659, when he said: "Let no man be put to death for cattle, for money or any other things . . . neither Moses nor the Apostles saith hang him."

SWEDEN.

EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION PLAN FOR STOCKHOLM.

Organized influence and participation of workmen in the direction and control of Swedish industrial enterprises which employ twenty-five persons or more, is recommended in a plan just submitted to the government by the official committee on industrial democracy. The recommendation involves more general recognition of labor unions while forcing the employer to heed administrative and executive advice from his employees.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



A COURSE ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

By Dr. H. J. CARMAN

Given at the
WORKERS' UNIVERSITY
of the

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION
Season 1922-1923

LESSON 9—THE STRUGGLE FOR THE GREAT WEST.

I. The Middle West.

1. We have already observed how people poured over the Allegheny Mountains into the region east of the Mississippi River.
2. In 1800 men prophesied that it would be a hundred years before the emigrant would go west of the Mississippi.
3. Yet in less than fifty years people flocked across the Mississippi, and Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa and Minnesota had been admitted into the Union as states.
 - (a) Missouri with wide stretches of rich, level land, well adapted for hemp growing, attracted thousands of planters from the old Southern states as well as from Kentucky and Tennessee. From the South, there also came a stream of back-country farmers driven out by the onrush of the planter system. Another stream of emigrants flowed in from the North and laid out farms to be tilled by their own labor. St. Louis, the old French port, enriched by the fur trade, became a thriving commercial city of 75,000 in 1850. 40,000 of its population were Germans who came from Pennsylvania and Europe.
 - (b) Arkansas, just below Missouri, for years was inhabited by restless frontier hunters who simply "squatted" on the land. That is, they took it without permission from anybody. Later planters came in search of cotton and tobacco lands, and when the territory was admitted as a state in 1836, it was definitely a planter state.
 - (c) Iowa and Minnesota, the very heart of the prairie country, where the grass grew so high that it waved like the sea, were settled by farmers from New England, New York and Ohio. They were freemen, unaccustomed to slavery and slave markets. Iowa was admitted to the Union in 1846 and Minnesota in 1858.

II. The Far West and the Southwest.

1. Beyond the fertile, level plains of the Mississippi lay a vast empire of mountain, valley and desert land.
 - (a) Into this empire went Americans of English, German, Irish and Scotch-Irish descent. Here too flocked throngs of Scandinavians.
 - (b) Some made their homes on quiet farms; others became Indian scouts, trappers, miners, cowboys, Texas planters, stage-drivers, fruitgrowers and lumber jacks.
2. The Southern Planters and Texas.
 - (a) When the hungry land seekers from the cotton growing states reached the Texas border, they paused, but only for a moment—for Mexico, to which Texas belonged, welcomed them.
 - (b) Large grants of land were made to Americans, people even came from the North, like Moses Austin of Connecticut, after whom the present capital of Texas is named.
 - (c) Between 1820 and 1830 over 20,000 Americans had crossed the border.
 - (d) The government of Mexico now became frightened because so many came.
 1. Americans and natives quarreled.
 2. President Jackson offered to buy territory.
 3. Mexico cancelled many land grants, put a tariff on farming implements and abolished slavery.
 - (e) The result was that Americans in Texas from the planting states issued a declaration of independence.
 - (f) War ensued and Texas became an independent republic.
3. Texas Annexed.
 - (a) Southerners desired to annex Texas to the United States, but the North strongly opposed it.
 1. Opposed Slavery.
 2. Some maintained that it was boldly imperialistic.
 - (b) Despite this opposition Texas was annexed in 1845.
4. The Mexican War.
 - (a) Ostensibly caused by boundary dispute, but the real cause was the desire of the United States for more territory. To many it appeared as a war of aggression on a weaker nation.

Is There "Education in General"?

One frequently hears people talking about "education in general." When they speak of people being educated, they mean that such people are in possession of a great deal of information on all sorts of subjects and are also able to use this information in different ways.

This used to be the notion for a good many years, and is still the notion in the minds of most people. But modern studies and research have proved that there is no such thing as education in general. What we really have in this world, is special kinds of education which enable persons to do special things.

This idea should be clear in the minds of all thinking people, particularly in the minds of intelligent workers.

It is clear that education in mathematics will enable a person to become a good mathematician and nothing else. A person may be an expert in algebra and geometry, and may be as helpless as a child in business, or may not be able to appreciate a good novel, or may have absolutely no taste for good music or art, or may be a thorough conservative, or may have no interest at all in social problems, or anything else, you please. The only thing we are sure of is that he may be a good mathematician.

The same can be said about education in other branches of human knowledge. A thorough acquaintance with literature, or music, or science, or art, or anything else, may be possessed by people who are conservative or radical, open-shoppers or closed-shoppers, pro-union or anti-union, and so on. That this is true is clear to anyone who will think for a moment of those persons he has met who may have what is commonly called education in one direction and are ignorant in other directions.

The above truth is very important for workers, and particularly for workers who are active in the labor movement. They must realize that to accomplish a special purpose, it is necessary to have a special education. If a worker wants to become familiar with poetry, let him study poetry. If he wants to become familiar with music, let him study music. If he wants to become familiar with chemistry, let him study chemistry. But if he wants to change the social and

economic conditions under which the great majority of workers live today in capitalistic countries, then he must study the special subjects which deal with economic and social conditions.

But even this is not enough. Not only does special education train for special activities, but the particular point of view or attitude from which the special education is given, determines the character of resulting activities.

Education in social sciences is essential for those who are interested in social problems and wish to help to solve them. But it must be remembered that social sciences as taught in institutions which uphold things as they are, are of necessity different in content and method from those taught in institutions which are devoted to the ideal of creating things as they ought to be.

Of course, a worker should have many other purposes. He should be interested in poetry, and music, and art, and chemistry, while at the same time he wishes to do all he can to change our social and economic conditions. This can be done, and is being done very successfully in labor schools, under the inspiration of high ideals and values created by the labor movement. But no one should fool himself into thinking that education in arts and sciences alone will inspire a person to fight in the cause of labor and humanity. Many oppressors of labor and ruthless exploiters of their fellow-men had a splendid so-called education. But still, they remain oppressors and exploiters.

Let workers then keep this in mind. We must be satisfied with nothing less than a completely rich and full life. We want to become acquainted with the beautiful and the instructive. But for our special job, that of changing society so that those who produce shall own the product of their labor, we must have a special training. And this training can be obtained only through workers' education. The workers' education movement is a movement for special education in the subjects which will enable workers to accomplish their special job.

Let us then remember that there is no such thing as education in general. There are specific kinds of education, and each one prepares human beings for specific activities.

Annual Meeting of Our Instructors

The annual meeting of the instructors of our Workers' University, Unity Centers and Extension Division took place on Saturday, May 26.

On this occasion the men and women who participated in the activities of our Educational Department, and a committee representing the students, came together and interchanged ex-

periences of last season's work and suggestions for the coming season.

The Educational Committee was represented by Israel Feinberg, the chairman of the committee, and the Educational Department by Alexander Pichandler, director, and Miss Fannia M. Cohn, secretary.

A more detailed report of the meeting will appear next week.

- (b) As a result of the war, the United States gained the entire southwestern part of the present United States, a domain equal in size to the combined areas of France and Germany.

III. Our Strained Relations With Mexico During the Last Few Years.

1. Causes.
2. Will there be another Mexican War?

READING: Beard, History of the United States, Chapter XII (first half).

With the Waist and Dress Joint Board

By M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary
(Record of Meeting held May 23d, 1923)

Brother Berlin in the Chair.

OUTSIDE COMMITTEES

Otto B. Houswood, representing the African Blood Brotherhood, appeared before the Board on behalf of this organization which is seeking to bring about cooperation between colored and white workers on the basis of their identity of interests as workers; to oppose with counter propaganda the vicious capitalist propaganda against the Negro as a race, which is aimed to keep the workers of both races apart and thus facilitate their exploitation, and among other things to acquaint the civilized world with facts about lynchings, peonage, disfranchisement and other manifestations of race prejudice and mob rule.

Mr. Houswood further stated that the Negro, shocked by the terrible conditions in the South, is being driven northward and is creating thereby new problems in the industrial sections of the North, and that we cannot help but realize the growing disabilities arising from this steady stream of unorganized workers from the South. To carry on the work of trade union education among the Negroes the organization must have funds. He therefore appealed to the Joint Board for a liberal donation.

Upon motion a committee together with the secretary of the Joint Board

were appointed to investigate this request and to report their findings to the Joint Board.

The Elevator Operators' and Starters' Local No. 67 informed the Joint Board that they have arranged a mass meeting of their craft for Tuesday, May 29th for the purpose of building up their organization. They requested the Joint Board to assign someone to address their meeting on that occasion.

The Joint Board left it to Brother Berlin to assign someone to address this meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Board of Directors submitted their report and recommendations of May 21st which in part read as follows:

"Brother Hochman reported that three among the shops which are now on strike, have been striking ever since the General Strike was called. Brother Hochman, after giving a brief outline as to the conditions of these strikes, requested the Board to advise him as to how further to act with regard to them. It was decided to postpone action.

"Brother Hochman further reported that the B. & B. Dress Company against whose shop in West New York a strike was declared, had ob-

tained an injunction against the union. At the same time Brother Hochman stated that this firm may be brought to sign a jobbers' agreement with the union.

"In conclusion, Brother Hochman stated that the injunctions which are frequently issued by the courts are a great menace to labor organizations in general and particularly to our union. For that reason, Mr. Rothenberg, our attorney was requested to prepare a summary and brief of all injunction cases and also a resolution to be presented to the central Federated Union, urging them to call a conference of all labor organizations sometime during the month of August, 1923. At this conference ways and means should be devised whereby pressure should be brought to bear upon the state legislature with a view of enacting such laws in regard to injunctions that labor unions should be given a hearing when application is made by an employer for an injunction. As it stands today, the judges who are invested with the power of issuing injunctions upon the request made by the employer only, the union having no chance to present its side of the case. This, we believe, is not only arbitrary but autocratic."

The Board of Directors' report was concurred in by the Joint Board.

In regard to the entertainment of the Harlem and Bronx districts, Brother Berlin informed the Joint Board delegates that as per the decision of the Joint Board this entertainment would be held on Friday, May 25th, at Laurel Garden. Brother Berlin distributed tickets to the delegates and urged them as well as all

others present to attend that entertainment.

THE GET-TOGETHER

Sister Rosa Pensatta reported that the scheduled get-together on May 12 at the Villa Anita Garibaldi, was held. Out of about 300 invitations sent out 230 people were there. Judging from observation the people enjoyed themselves immensely.

In conclusion, Sister Pensatta stated that the committee did not omit the donation of suitable gifts to some of our members. Although it has not been established whether the recipients of the gifts were satisfied, it is certain that the on-lookers at the time the gifts were presented appreciated heartily the arrangements made by the committee.

The report of the Get-together Committee was accepted with thanks.

INSTALLATION OF NEW J. B.

In regard to the installation of the new Joint Board, the attention of the Joint Board was called to the fact that next Wednesday is Decoration Day and as a regular Joint Board meeting will not be held it was decided to reaffirm the previous decision of the Joint Board, i.e., that the Joint Board for the ensuing term should be installed the first week in June or on Wednesday, June 6th. It was furthermore understood that all unfinished business should be taken up at that meeting and when this is disposed of the new Joint Board will be installed and election of officers for the Joint Board will take place.

Worcester Dress Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

were too stubborn to settle peacefully their difference with the union.

The main demands of the union at the conference with the employers were the 44-hours week, a fifteen percent increase in wages and recognition of the union shop. Immediately after the strike was declared, Miss Weinstein, the agent of the U. S. Department of Labor, appealed to Mayor Sullivan to make an attempt to bring

both sides to a settlement. The Mayor called the union and the manufacturers to his office and proposed that the dispute be settled by arbitration. Vice-president Monahan, the leader of the strikers, consented to arbitrate on all points but one—the recognition of the union shop. The Mayor agreed to the point of view of the union.

As yet the arbitration board has rendered no decision, but the workers

are hopeful that they will secure substantial gains and will under all cir-

cumstances be assured of union conditions in the Worcester shops.

ATTENTION!

RUSSIAN-POLISH CLOAKMAKERS

A very important meeting of the Russian-Polish Branch will be held on Monday, June 4th, at 8 p. m. sharp, at the People's House, 315 East 10th Street.

At this meeting there will be held the election of a chairman of the Branch. It is the duty of every member of the Branch to be present at this meeting.

A. E. SAULICH,
Secretary.

General Executive Board Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

San Francisco; the jobbing problem in the cloak trade in New York City and elsewhere; organization and trade reforms in the dress industry; the progress of the campaign work of the Out-of-Town Department; the first two months of activity of the Western Office of the International, and many other important matters too numerous to mention.

Next week we shall be in a position to give a more detailed statement with regard to this meeting. Meanwhile the local organizations and individuals desiring to get in touch with the G. E. B. during the meeting will kindly communicate their requests to Secretary Baroff in care of the General Office.

San Francisco Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

alternative but to go on with the struggle. Secretary Baroff, at the end of his report, recommended that the General Executive Board continue to support the strike, and his recommendation was unanimously adopted.

At this meeting there appeared before the Board a special delegation

representing organized labor in Romania, consisting of Dr. Kushman and H. Glyshinsky. They told a gruesome story of the persecutions of labor in that country and of the unenviable condition of the workers and of their organizations, and they asked for aid. The Board decided to give them \$500.00.

Gompers vs. Gary

(Continued from page 7)

the interests of the American workers and all arguments to prove the falsity of this theory are of no avail. It is an old song and we shall not discuss it now. The other part of his argumentation, however, is very wholesome and, if the capitalist press does not give it the prominence it deserves—and certainly the prominence it gave Mr. Gary's statement—the labor press at least should quote it in full.

As regards Gary's demand that the

world become more devout and religious, we desire to cite the words of Victor Berger's first speech in Congress, which were quoted by all newspapers more than any other of its parts, spoken in connection with the long working hours in some industries of which Berger complained. He said:

"Why, the workers have not even the time to praise God if they would, and surely no reason for it!"

possible for a waistmaker to work at cloaks. While, as a matter of fact, the great majority of those who call themselves dressmakers are former waistmakers, even today, should the waist shops become active and the dress shops slack, it is almost certain that these dressmakers would without hesitation look and find jobs in the waist shops. The same is true of the waistmakers,—whenever they have a chance, they obtain jobs in dress shops and, in the course of one week, these waistmakers are transformed into dressmakers. There are some shops, indeed, where they have been changing off from dresses to waists and from waists to dresses more than once, while retaining the same staff of workers.

That much for the trade aspect of the situation. But there is another human or psychological point of view involved in this matter. The dress and waistmakers have been organized together for years and years. They have become, so to say, one family; and if, in the course of the development of the dress industry and the

downfall of the waist trade, the child—the dressmaking trade—has outgrown the parent—the waist trade,—their relations have not been affected by this in the least. The bigger organization in the dress trade has aided its weaker progenitor, the waist local, generously and faithfully, and, while occasionally there may be disputes and disagreements between them, they nevertheless work and exist side by side.

This may be regarded as a matter of sentiment, which is not taken into account much in the hard work of the world. Nevertheless, all our union activity is thoroughly saturated with sentiment and we have not as yet seen any division in our great movement that could go on successfully with its work and ignore at the same time its human aspect.

We wish to hope, therefore, that the General Executive Board will reconsider this matter with the same earnestness and attention with which it has always treated matters of such vital importance.

The Week in Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

GENERAL

The tension in the Cloak and Dress Joint Boards, regarding the amalgamation of the two dressmaking locals, No. 23 and No. 25, was temporarily relieved when the committee to whom the matter was referred for the purpose of bringing in a recommendation, submitted a minority and majority report, which was referred to the General Executive Board for the purpose of solving this vexing problem.

The majority report recommends that Local 23 be made a part of Local 25, and that the combined local affiliate with the Cloak and Suit Joint Board.

The minority report contends that there are still jurisdictional points to be solved, respecting other crafts in the dressmaking industry. This refers to the two Italian locals: cloakmakers, Local 48, and dressmakers, Local 89. Then there is the Dress Pressers' Union, Local 60, and the Cloak Pressers' Union, Local 35.

Since these locals present a problem, the minority report recommends that, before the amalgamation takes place, the General Executive Board should dispose of the jurisdictional questions regarding these locals.

The question bids fair for early solution, in view of the fact that the quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board will take place in New York City on June 11th. There is no question but that the Board will take it up as soon as it is presented. The International, as well as the two Joint Boards, is anxious to dispose of the question, as it is of no little importance.

WAIST AND DRESS

The slack season in this trade makes for an unusual number of complaints regarding the matter of equal division of work and discharge cases. It is the one time of the season when employers are anxious to discharge men, who, during the season, insist upon a living wage and decent standards of work.

As an instance in point, it is timely to report here the very interesting case of Brother Morris Toran, one of the active members of Local 10.

The cutter in question was employed by an independent dress shop since last February and received a salary above the minimum scale. The cutter felt from the attitude his employer assumed that he was seeking his discharge.

However, no matter how much care a worker takes in his work, an error is bound to happen sooner or later. And this happened in the form of a mistake. The error had in it all elements. It was absolutely unintentional and it was easily seen to be so. The employer, however, thought this was his opportunity and discharged the cutter.

A complaint was filed with the office of the Joint Board and Business Agent Portnoy was assigned to the case. Within a very short time on the same afternoon the office of Local 10 was informed by the business agent that the discharge should be sustained by the union. The office disagreed and insisted upon re-investigating the matter.

The representative of Local 10 found the mistake was no basis for discharge and requested the employer to reinstate Brother Toran. The employer refused to do so. The matter was taken up with Brother Julius Hochman, Manager of the Joint Board, who, upon the report of Brother Portnoy, sustained the opinion of the latter.

Local 10 was not satisfied and presented the matter before the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors voted that the cutter was

entitled to the job and the office was instructed to use its best efforts with a view of reinstating the worker.

When the case came up before the Joint Board quite an interesting discussion developed. Some of the delegates contended that a mistake was no cause for a discharge; were the union to take a similar attitude towards its agents there would be ample cause for the discharge of the business agent handling this matter, who felt that the discharge of the cutter should be sustained on the ground that he made a mistake.

The Chairman of the Joint Board, in speaking on the matter, stated that he would think twice before he would give a complaint of his to the business agent in question, in view of his lack of technical knowledge of cutters' cases.

The Joint Board finally decided to concur in the decision of the Board of Directors. A strike was called which lasted three days, after which the firm agreed to re-employ the cutter.

MISCELLANEOUS

It was suggested, by the Union's Conference Committee in the negotiations with the Underwear Association for the renewal of the agreement that the new pact would mean something, and that the employer's organization intended to enforce the provisions. Attempts to adjust the grievances of the workers and to secure for them those conditions which are contained in the agreement have proven futile so far.

This was gone over by Manager Dubinsky at some length at the last meeting of this branch, which was held on Wednesday, May 23d, at the International Auditorium, 3 West 16th Street. The manager also read to the members the opinion of Committee Morris Hillquist, counsel for the union, with regard to the proportion of assistant cutters to mechanics, and the right of the union's representatives to make investigations in the factories of the employers.

It will be recalled that the question of the proportion of assistants to mechanics was reported in these columns. It is the contention of the Association that the employers were entitled to any number of assistants to mechanics, but only one learner to every three mechanics or their assistants. The union contended that assistants and learners were the same, except that the former are advanced apprentices.

The second question mentioned above and which is a point in dispute, is that the union contends that it has the right, according to the agreement, to enter a factory for the purpose of making investigations with regard to the affiliation of the workers with the union. The association, on the other hand, contended that this is a misinterpretation and that it was not intended to give the union such a right.

It will be clearly seen, therefore, that the union is handicapped to a considerable degree with regard to the enforcement of the agreement, as a result of the interpretations read into the agreement by the Chief Clerk of the association.

It is now almost three months since the signing of the agreement and a control of the shops has not yet been completed. This is primarily due to a letter sent out by the association to the employers, in which they were informed that the representative of the union had no right to visit the factory.

The employers naturally give this letter a more sweeping meaning and go so far as to refuse to call the workers out for the representative of

the union in any other part of their establishment. This, of course, makes it difficult for the union to control the cutters.

Manager Dubinsky took this matter up with the association and requested that that part of the agreement be enforced, which compels cutters who at one time were members of the union to place themselves in good standing. The attitude of the association in regard to this request was a condescending one. The association took the position that it would use its good office, which was not satisfactory to the manager, who claimed that the agreement was very specific, in that it made it mandatory upon employers in whose employ there were cutters who were in arrears or dropped for non-payment of dues, to place themselves in good standing.

Upon the manager's insistence that this provision of the agreement be carried out, the association, in the person of its manager, admitted that it was powerless to enforce this matter. Manager Dubinsky thereupon informed the association that the union was determined to and would enforce the provisions of the agreement.

The first steps that Dubinsky took towards compelling the employers to live up to the agreement was to send a letter to a number of members of the association, which letter follows in full:

Gentlemen:—Several weeks ago we notified your association with whom we are in contractual relations to the effect that you have in your employ cutters who are not good standing members of our union, and who at one time were members of our union. This is a violation of paragraph 12 of the collective agreement between the union and the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association.

Up to the present time no adjustment was made of our complaint through the association. We assume as a result, that the matter has been left for adjustment between you and the union individually.

We, therefore, extend to you the same opportunity to adjust the complaint stated above individually as we have previously to the association, and we are taking up the matter directly with you. We deem seven days a reasonable length of time in which this matter should be finally adjusted.

Trusting you will give this matter your immediate attention, I am,

Very Truly Yours,
(Signed) DAVID DUBINSKY,
Manager.

In accordance with the plans the manager, Comrade August Claessens delivered the second lecture to the members of this division on Elementary Trade Unionism. Lack of space prevents a verbatim report of the

lecture, which, it is needless to say, measured up to the standard for which the lecturer is known and was enthusiastically received.

Comrade Claessens dwelt at length on the meaning of Trade Unionism and the necessity for unified activity within the organization, with a view to strengthening the organization. The speaker compared the conditions of the members of this branch with the conditions obtained in the cloak and dress trades. He made the point that the conditions were secured solely as a result of the close cooperation between the various crafts in the unions controlling these trades, which made for the higher standards.

The next meeting of this branch will also be addressed by a lecturer. Final arrangements have not yet been made and it is therefore not known who the lecturer will be. Suffice it to say that the lecturer will be one who, as in the past two lectures, will hold the complete attention of the members. It is important, therefore, that all of the members attend the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, June 18th, at Arlington Hall. Notice of this meeting will be posted in the regular space provided on this page and members will also be notified by mail.



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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

Notice of Regular Meetings

CLOAK AND SUIT	Monday, June 4th
WAIST AND DRESS	Monday, June 11th
MISCELLANEOUS	Monday, June 18th
GENERAL	Monday, June 25th

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place